

CLAIMS

1. A removable device which is attached/detached to/from a universal peripheral device interface of a computer executing an automatic startup script stored in a device of a specified type when the device is connected thereto, and which includes a ROM or a read-writable storage device as a main storage device,
the removable device comprising means for returning a signal indicating that the device is of the specified type in response to an inquiry signal concerning the type of the device sent from the computer upon connection to the universal peripheral device interface.
2. The removable device according to claim 1, comprising means for returning a signal representing an absence of media at least once, and then returning a signal representing a presence of media in response to inquiry signals as to the presence of media repeated via the universal peripheral device interface.
3. The removable device according to claims 1 or 2, comprising a plurality of unit devices; and hub means for allocating data exchange with the computer side to each of the unit devices.
4. The removable device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein an auto-starting program launched by the automatic startup script is stored in advance, and
the auto-starting program, along with performing password-based authentication, performs, or lets the removable device perform, at least either formatting of specified data or termination of the program when an incorrect password is entered a predetermined number

of times.

5. The removable device according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein
an auto-starting program launched by the automatic startup
5 script is stored in advance, and
the auto-starting program establishes associations between
desired file extensions and desired programs on a temporary basis only
while the removable device is in use.
- 10 6. The removable device according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein
an auto-starting program launched by the automatic startup
script is stored in advance, and
the auto-starting program is configured:
to handle files that have been deleted in a storage area
15 recognized as a removable disk by the computer as candidate files
marked for deletion in a trash bin specific to the removable disk, and
with respect to the candidate files marked for deletion, to
accept and execute an operation of displaying the files contained therein,
an operation of restoring a desired file, and an operation of completely
20 erasing some or all of the files.
7. A program startup method, wherein
a detection program is executed on a computer in advance, and
when a removable device is mounted to a universal peripheral
25 device interface of the computer, the detection program launches a
program corresponding to specified data in the removable device.
8. A removable device attached/detached to/from a universal
peripheral device interface of a computer and comprising a ROM or

read-writable storage device as its main storage device,

wherein the device is configured to boot the computer by providing information used for starting an operating system along with sending a reply representing a flexible disk drive in response to access
5 from the BIOS of the computer via the universal peripheral device interface.

9. The removable device according to any of claims 1 to 6,
wherein an auto-starting program launched by the automatic
10 startup script is stored in advance, and
the execution of the auto-starting program is preconditioned by password-based authentication.

10. The removable device according to any of claims 1 to 6 or 9,
15 wherein an auto-starting program launched by the automatic startup script is stored in advance, and
the auto-starting program is an electronic mail program which, along with operating based on account information contained in the removable device, stores sent and received electronic mail data in the
20 removable device.